

National Co-Op Chairman Says Industry Did Well In 1990

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The chairman of the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC), speaking to nearly 1,000 cooperative executives and farmer-directors, said while 1990 represented another highly successful year for the organization, major challenges still lay ahead.

"In particular," said Russell L. Hanlin, chief executive officer, Sunkist Growers, Inc., Van Nuys, CA, who is completing a two-year term as chairman of NCFC at its 62nd annual meeting here, "how to compete in a changing and increasingly competitive global economy is one of the greatest challenges we as a nation and an industry face."

To meet that challenge, Hanlin outlined, the council was successful in its efforts this past year in support of provisions contained in the 1990 farm bill aimed at protecting farm income, while allowing U.S. agriculture to compete more effectively in both the domestic and international marketplace.

At the same time, he added, the council continued to be very much involved in efforts to reach a new

trade agreement under the Uruguay Round of the GATT. Such an agreement, it was stressed, must result in a "level playing field" for U.S. agriculture on a commodity-by-commodity basis.

"No agreement is better than a bad agreement," said the chairman.

NCFC President Wayne Boutwell said U.S. trade negotiators deserved high praise for not giving in to pressure to reach an agreement in late December in Brussels that "would have been especially damaging to U.S. agricultural interests." Negotiations are expected to continue this year.

In addition to increasing global competition, the council president also highlighted two other major trends affecting U.S. agriculture, including farmer cooperatives. These included continued pressures to reduce federal spending for farm programs because of the budget deficit and rising costs because of legislation and regulations relating to environmental concerns.

"Meeting all three challenges," Boutwell said, "will require all of us in agriculture and within this

industry to work together as never before."

William A. Hiller, president and chief executive officer of Agway, Inc., Syracuse, N.Y., was elected chairman of the NCFC board to succeed Hanlin. Philip F.

French, president and chief executive officer of Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association, Inc., Indianapolis, IN, was named one of three vice chairmen, succeeding Hiller.

Re-elected vice chairmen were

C.T. (Terry) Fredrickson, chief executive officer of the Farm Credit Bank of St. Louis, and Gary Hanman, chief executive officer of Mid-America Dairymen, Inc., Springfield, MO.

Woodlot Management Workshop Set

TOWANDA (Bradford Co.) — The second annual Woodlot Management Workshop for forest landowners will be held Saturday, March 23, 1991 in Allen Hall at Mansfield University, Mansfield, Pa. from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The workshop is co-sponsored by Penn State Cooperative Extension, Mansfield University, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, the Society of American Foresters Northern Hardwood Chapter, Pennsylvania Hardwood Development Council, Northern Tier Hardwood Association, and Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry. Topics and speakers include:

• "Basics of Forestry," Mike

Palko, service forester, Bureau of Forestry.

• "Erosion and Sedimentation Considerations," Howard Rutledge, conservationist, USDA Soil Conservation Service.

• "White Tail Deer, Pennsylvania's Most Controversial Animal" video, Dr. Robert Hansen, area extension forester, Penn State Cooperative Extension.

• "Gypsy Moth in Tioga County," Gary Laudermilch, entomologist, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry.

Lunch will be served at Marks Brothers following the workshop. This is a good time to talk with the individual speakers and ask them

questions. One category point toward recertification of a pesticide license may be available.

Registration cost for this meeting is \$9, which includes lunch and is due March 11. Checks should be made payable to Bradford County Cooperative Extension and mailed to Woodlot Management Workshop, Penn State Cooperative Extension, P.O. Box 69, Towanda, PA 18848.

Registration brochures can be obtained from the Bradford County Extension Office, (717) 265-2896, Tioga County Extension Office (717) 724-1906, or the Bureau of Forestry office in Wellsboro (717) 724-2868.

Legislation Will Help Research Programs

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Citing the extraordinary success of Pennsylvania agriculture commodity research and marketing programs, Rep. Kenneth J. Cole, D-Adams, has introduced legislation to further streamline the process for creating and continuing such programs.

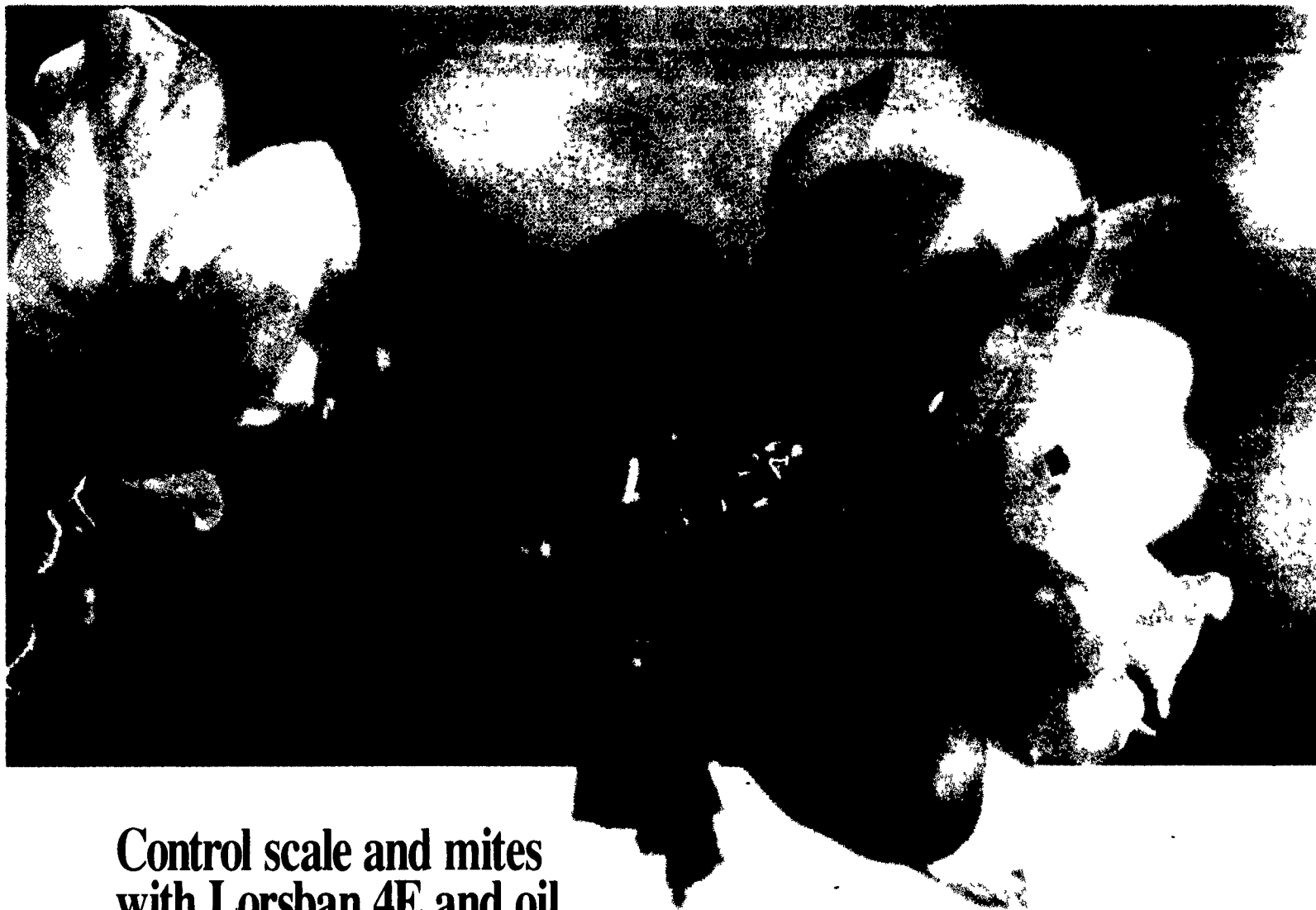
"The legislation was introduced at the request of the six marketing boards operating in Pennsylvania, in particular the Apple Marketing Board, with whom I recently met to discuss the proposal," said Cole. "The marketing boards spend several million dollars a year of their own money for agriculture promotion and research."

"It is important to have this program for agricultural products grown in the Commonwealth," said Cole. "The programs administered by producers represent some of the most successful promotion programs we have."

In 1987, Rep. John Broujos and Cole sponsored legislation that put the decision-making authority for producer-financed programs back into the hands of producers. It gave farmers and growers more power to control marketing of their own commodities. Since that legislation became law, the number of commodity marketing boards in Pennsylvania has doubled.

Currently, to reauthorize a marketing program, each board must receive a 2/3 majority vote of the membership. Under Cole's proposed legislation, the number of votes required to reauthorize a marketing program would change from two-thirds to a simple majority.

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